

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 HEW-08 SR-02 ORM-03 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 /144 R

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ARA/USOAS-MR. FORD

ARA/BC-MR. ISAACS

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R 162246Z OCT 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS STATE 205214

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SGEN, OAS, CI

SUBJECT: CHILE AND INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

REF: STATE 202284

FOLLOWING IS OAS PRESS RELEASE:

QUOTE. OCTOBER 12, 1973 -- OAS HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICIAL TO MAKE REPORT ON CHILEAN SITUATION -- WASHINGTON, D.C. -- DR. LUIS REQUE, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS), HAS LEFT FOR SANTIAGO, CHILE, TO INVESTIGATE REPORTS THAT THE COUNTRY'S MILITARY JUNTA HAS USED "REPRESSIVE MEASURES" AGAINST MEMBERS OF THE OPPOSITION AND POLITICAL REFUGEES.

AUTHORIZATION FOR THE ON-THE-SPOT INSPECTION WAS GIVEN TO THE COMMISSION BY THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT THROUGH MR- OLEGARIO RUSSI, INTERIM REPRESENTATIVE OF CHILE TO THE OAS. IN A COMMUNICATION ADDRESSED TO THE COMMISSION, UNCLASSIFIED

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MR. RUSSI SAID THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT IS "WILLING TO AND

CAN OFFER THE COMMISSION ALL THE INFORMATION IT REQUIRES CONCERNING THE SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN CHILE," BUT REQUESTS THAT CONCRETE QUESTIONS AND SPECIFICATIONS OF SUBJECTS TO BE INVESTIGATED BE MADE IN ADVANCE TO THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT.

DR. REQUE WILL REPORT ON HIS FACT-FINDING TRIP AT A REGULAR SESSION OF THE COMMISSION MEETING LATER THIS MONTH IN CALI, COLOMBIA.

THE COMMISSION OFFICIAL'S TRIP CAME AFTER AN EXCHANGE OF CABLES BETWEEN THE CHILEAN JUNTA AND DR. JUSTINO JIMENEZ DE ARECHAGA, CHAIRMAN OF THE OAS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, AND DR. REQUE. THE COMMISSION HAD EXPRESSED ITS CONCERN OVER REPORTS OF "IMMINENT AND SEVERE REPRESSIVE MEASURES TO MEMBERS OF OPPOSITION AND POLITICAL REFUGEES."

THE CHILEAN FOREIGN MINISTER, REAR ADMIRAL ISMAEL HUERTA DIAZ, HAD ADVISED THE COMMISSION THAT HIS GOVERNMENT "WILL CONTINUE FAITHFULLY TO FULFILL ITS OBLIGATIONS DERIVED FROM INTER-AMERICAN AGREEMENTS CONCERNING RESPECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS" AND THAT "THE INDIVIDUALS PRESENTLY DETAINED, WHO ARE RECEIVING HUMANE TREATMENT, WILL BE SENTENCED ONLY AFTER TRIAL, IF THEY ARE IMPLICATED IN CRIMINAL ACTS."

PURPOSE OF THE OAS COMMISSION IS TO "KEEP VIGILANCE OVER THE OBSERVANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS" IN THE AMERICAN NATIONS, AS WELL AS "PROMOTE RESPECT" OF THOSE RIGHTS. THE COMMISSION IS MADE UP OF SEVEN MEMBERS WHO ARE DESIGNATED BY THE OAS PERMANENT COUNCIL. ITS HEADQUARTERS ARE IN WASHINGTON, BUT IT CAN MOVE TO ANY OTHER SITE UNDER AUTHORIZATION BY THE RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENT. END QUOTE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE205214
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: GNMONSMA:BJF
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731028/aaaaaunt.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 202284
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 NOV 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07-Nov-2001 by bryansd0>; APPROVED <06 MAR 2002 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CHILE AND INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
TAGS: PFOR, SGEN, CI, OAS
To: SANTIAGO
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005